

in our war against the British. There, along the west bank of the Hudson River, during the founding of our Nation, West Point was born.

Further recognizing our national need to develop an institution dedicated to the arts and sciences of warfare, Thomas Jefferson signed legislation establishing the U.S. Military Academy in 1802. Over the last two centuries, West Point Military Academy has grown to become one of the most revered institutions of its kind, training young men and women to become great leaders and proud soldiers. Among the distinguished list of Academy graduates are names which have changed the history of our Nation and our world, including Grant, Lee, Sherman, Jackson, Eisenhower, MacArthur, Bradley, Arnold, Clark, and Patton.

In these trying times for our Nation, as many of the service men and women are defending freedom in Afghanistan and elsewhere around the world, it is a fitting tribute to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the citadel of freedom.

The leadership which West Point has provided to our Nation and which will continue to provide for years to come is an inspiration to every American.

West Point is more than just an Academy, it is a pillar of our Nation, and a symbol of our Nation's rich past and fruitful future.

This prestigious Academy is a tribute to the strength of America and our right as free people to pursue life, liberty, and happiness.

The history of West Point is the story of America—a distinguished tale to tell.

God bless West Point and God bless America.

#### ADDITIONAL MATERIALS REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO FISCAL YEAR 2002 APPROPRIATIONS LEGISLATION AFFECTING THE RIGHTS OF THE WYANDOTTE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

#### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 7, 2002*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on March 4, I placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an extension of remarks, that included a letter from Leaford Bearskin, the chief of the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma, concerning congressional actions last year that affected his Tribe. Due to space limitations, I was unable to include correspondence from organizations in the Third District of Kansas supporting the Wyandotte Tribe Settlement Act, referred to by Chief Bearskin. I have included the nine letters below.

UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF WYANDOTTE COUNTY/KANSAS CITY, KANSAS,

*Kansas City, KS, October 20, 1999.*

Hon. DON YOUNG,  
*Chairman, House Resources Committee, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN YOUNG: On behalf of the citizens of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, I would like to thank you for your efforts in sponsoring H.R. 1533, The Wyandotte Tribe Settlement Act, and strongly

urge you to continue your efforts to move this critical piece of legislation though Congress before it adjourns.

The citizens here, overwhelmingly, endorsed gaming at the Woodlands by an 80 percent vote in 1997. The passage of H.R. 1533 and similar legislation in the Senate would allow the Wyandotte Nation the opportunity to open a gaming facility at the Woodlands and greatly enhance the economy of this city and county. There is already widespread gaming throughout the State of Kansas and in the Kansas City area. This bill would allow the citizens of Wyandotte County to realize economic gains that are currently not available to them.

Your continued efforts are greatly appreciated, and if I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

CAROL MARINOVICH,  
*Mayor/CEO.*

THE KANSAS CITY, KANSAS AREA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
*Kansas City, KS, October 20, 1999.*

Hon. DON YOUNG,  
*Chairman, House Resources Committee, Rayburn House Office Building, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN YOUNG: I am writing to once again reiterate this organization's support for and to thank you for your efforts to expedite the passage of H.R. 1533: The Wyandotte Tribe Settlement Act of 1999.

As you know the by-product of this legislation will have a significant impact not only on the economic well being of the Wyandotte Nation, but certainly for our community at well. I believe that the passage of H.R. 1533 will allow the Wyandotte Nation to exercise certain rights afforded to them via the Indian Gaming Act of 1988. This also would create an opportunity for the Wyandotte Nation and the current ownership of the Woodlands greyhound and thoroughbred pari-mutuel racetrack to negotiate an agreement for a Tribal Casino. The Woodlands would be greatly aided by this arrangement.

Congressman Young, legalized games of chance and casino gaming are not unknown to our community, nor to the State of Kansas. There is already legalized gaming just across the state line in metropolitan Kansas City, Missouri, and there are several Tribal Casino operations in the State of Kansas. H.R. 1533 will allow for a win-win situation for our community, the State of Kansas as well as the Wyandotte Nation.

Thanking you in advance for your support and sponsorship of H.R. 1533, I am

Sincerely,

DERYL W. WYNN,  
*Chairman of the Board, Kansas City, Kansas Area Chamber of Commerce.*

DAN SCHENKEIN,  
*President, Kansas City, Kansas Area Chamber of Commerce.*

GREATER KANSAS CITY BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL, AFL-CIO,

*Independence, MO October 19, 1999.*

Hon. Congressman DON YOUNG,  
*Chairman House Resources Committee, Rayburn Office Building, Washington, DC*

DEAR CHAIRMAN YOUNG: I am writing this letter in strong support of House Bill 1533, regarding the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma's request for due compensation from Congress for lands and rights issues pertaining to the Treaty of 1855.

The successful passage of H.B. 1533 will create significant benefits for the Kansas City Metropolitan Area, not to mention specifically the working class community of Kansas City, Kansas and Wyandotte County. In a unique area of our metro-plex where employment opportunities are needed most, Kansas City, Kansas and its residents will significantly benefit from your efforts towards H.B. 1533 successful passage.

On behalf of the rank and file of the Greater Kansas City Building & Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO I urge your continued diligence on H.B. 1533.

Sincerely,

GARRY KEMP,  
*Exec. Sec./Business Manager, Greater Kansas City Building & Construction Trades Council.*

AFL-CIO TRI-COUNTY LABOR COUNCIL OF EASTERN KANSAS UNION LABEL & SERVICE TRADES—AREA COPE,

*Kansas City, KS, October 20, 1999.*

Hon. Congressman DON YOUNG,  
*Chairman, House Resources Committee, Rayburn Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN YOUNG: I am writing this letter in strong support of House Bill 1533, regarding the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma's request for due compensation from Congress for lands and rights issues pertaining to the Treaty of 1855.

The successful passage of H.B. 1533 will create significant benefits for the Kansas City Metropolitan Area, not to mention specifically the working class community of Kansas City, Kansas and Wyandotte County. In a unique area of our metro-plex where employment opportunities are needed most, Kansas City, Kansas and its residents will significantly benefit from your efforts towards H.B. 1533's successful passage.

On behalf of the rank and file of the AFL-CIO Tri-County Labor Council of Eastern Kansas, I urge your continued diligence on H.B. 1533.

Sincerely,

JIM HADEL,  
*President, Tri-County Labor Council.*

WYANDOT NATION OF KANSAS, INC.,  
*Kansas City, KS, July 11, 1998.*

Re Wyandot Nation of Kansas and the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma Settlement.

Hon. DON YOUNG,  
*Rayburn House Office Building, United States House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN YOUNG. On May 19, 1998, Congressman Vincent Snowbarger and Holly Zane, Attorney General of the Wyandot Nation of Kansas, authored letters which reference a controversy between the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma and the Wyandot Nation of Kansas regarding the use of the Huron Cemetery. This letter advises you that this controversy has been resolved by the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma and the Wyandot Nation of Kansas. The settlement prohibits the use of the Huron Cemetery for any use other than religious, cultural or those compatible with the use of the land as a burial ground.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

WYANDOT NATION OF KANSAS, INC.

MINORITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF GREATER KANSAS CITY,  
Kansas City, MO, October 19, 1999.

Hon. Congressman DONALD YOUNG,  
*Chairman House Resources Committee, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN YOUNG: The House Resources Committee passed H.B. 1533 which allows the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma to redeem "lost" tribal rights to land in Wyandotte County. This Bill is now awaiting action by the full House. The Minority Contractors Association would like to help educate you on the bill's impact with this letter and seek your support for it. As you may recall last year the Senate imposed a restriction on the Tribe's use and rights of their own land. H.B. 1533 restores those rights without infringing on last year's Senate action and helps meet critical needs in our community. The members of this association believe that this bill will greatly enhance economic development and construction in our community.

As you know the by-product of this legislation will have a significant impact not only on the economic well being of the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma, but certainly for the people of Wyandotte County as well. The entire region will benefit from our growing economy and the opportunities for employment. We believe that the passage of H.B. 1533 will allow the Wyandotte Tribe to exercise their rights to own and operate a Tribal Casino in our community under the authority of the Indian Gaming Act of 1988.

The residents of this community in 1996 voted overwhelmingly in an advisory vote to endorse legalized gaming by nearly 80 percent. Additionally, the Wyandotte Tribe has entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Unified government of Wyandotte County, Kansas City, Kansas for the purchase and operation of the Woodlands Greyhound and thoroughbred paranutual racetrack as a Tribal Casino. The Woodlands will be enhance greatly by this arrangement and will be revitalized to add value to our community. The citizens of Wyandotte County, the Kansas City Kansas Area Chamber of Commerce and the members of the Minority Contractors Association have gone on record of continually supporting this issue and casino-style gaming at the Woodlands. Chairman Young, as you know legalized games of chance and casino gaming are not strangers to our community nor the State of Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska or Iowa. There is already wide-spread gaming with several Tribal Casino operations within the State of Kansas. We believe that H.B. 1533 will allow for a win-win situation for our community as well as the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma. To that end the Minority Contractors Association

humbly urges you to review this legislation before the adjournment of the 106th Congress.

I appreciate your time and interest in this matter and look forward to hearing from you as you review this critical issue facing this community.

Sincerely,

MIKE HUGHES,  
*Executive Director.*

HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
OF GREATER KANSAS CITY,  
Kansas City, MO, October 21, 1999.

Hon. DON YOUNG,  
*Chairman, House Resources Committee, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN YOUNG: On behalf of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City, I would like to thank you for your efforts in sponsoring H.R. 1533, The Wyandotte Tribe Settlement Act. The Hispanic Chamber strongly urges you to continue your efforts to move this critical piece of legislation through Congress before it adjourns.

The citizens of Kansas City overwhelmingly endorsed gaming at the Woodland by an 80 percent vote in 1997. The passage of H.R. 1533 and similar legislation in the Senate would allow the Wyandotte Nation the opportunity to open a gaming facility at the Woodlands. This in turn would improve the economy of the City and Wyandotte County. We are pleased to hear about the Wyandotte Tribe's commitment to diversity. We are certain that through the passage of this bill, that the Hispanic community will be provided economic opportunities in the areas of construction, services and employment.

Your continued efforts are greatly appreciated and if I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM TORRES,  
*First Vice President.*

WYANDOTTE DEVELOPMENT, INC.,  
Kansas City, KS, October 21, 1999.

Hon. DON YOUNG,  
*Chairman, House Resources Committee, Rayburn House Office Building, House of Representatives, Washington, DC*

CONGRESSMAN YOUNG: I am writing on behalf of Wyandotte Development, Inc., which serves as the lead private economic development agency for Wyandotte County Kansas serving the communities of Edwardsville, Bonner Springs, and Kansas City.

I am writing to encourage your continued efforts to pass House Resolution 1533, which would return tribal rights in our County to the Wyandotte Nation. As you know, our

community and this organization are committed to the viable economic operation of the Woodlands para-mutual racetrack in our community. This organization believes that H.R. 1533 provides a unique potential for casino style gaming to be conducted at the Woodlands. Should that occur, it would allow our community to compete for tourism and gaming revenues on a regional basis and will create significant employment opportunities for our residents.

Please continue your fine efforts on House Resolution 1533.

Sincerely,

GARY D. GRABLE,  
*Chairman of the Board,  
Wyandotte Development Incorporated.*

THE WOMEN'S CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
Kansas City, KS, October 20, 1999.

Hon. DON YOUNG,  
*Chairman, Housing Resources Committee, Rayburn House Office Building, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSMAN YOUNG: Thank you for your efforts to expedite the passage of H.R. 1533: The Wyandotte Tribe Settlement Act of 1999. I again request that you continue to support this worthy effort.

The by-product of this legislation will have a significant impact on only on the economic well being of the Wyandotte Nation, but certainly for our community as well. I believe that the passage of H.R. 1533 will allow the Wyandotte Nation to exercise certain rights afforded to them via the Indian Gaming Act of 1988. This also would create an opportunity for the Wyandotte Nation and the current ownership of the Woodlands greyhound and thoroughbred para-mutual racetrack to negotiate an agreement for a Tribal Casino. The Woodlands would be greatly aided by this arrangement. The board of directors of the Kansas City Kansas Women's Chamber of Commerce has continually supported casino-style gambling at the Woodlands since 1995.

There are legalized casinos just across the state line in metropolitan Kansas City, Missouri, and there are several Tribal Casino operations in the State of Kansas. I believe that H.R. 1533 would benefit our own community with jobs and economic opportunities. These opportunities would have a positive effect on my community, the State of Kansas and the Wyandotte Nation.

Thanking you in advance for your support and sponsorship of H.R. 1533.

Sincerely,

LORETTA MORTON,  
*President, Kansas City, Kansas  
Women's Chamber of Commerce.*